

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, NATO, TU, GR

SUBJECT:LUNS' COMMENTS TO GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE

REF: ATHENS 1727

1. WE CHECKED WITH GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE ON COMMENTS LUNS
MIGHT HAVE MADE AT LUNCH FEBRUARY 26, WHICH COULD HAVE
TRIGGERED REPORT DESCRIBED REFTEL.

2. FROM WHAT WE PIECE TOGETHER, DURING CONVERSATION
FOLLOWING LUNCH, AND PRESUMABLY ON SUPPOSITION THAT HIS
REMARKS WERE PRIVILEGED, LUNS COMMENTED GENERALLY ON
DOMESTIC INSTABILITIES IN SOUTHERN FLANK COUNTRIES. HE
SAID THAT SOME AMERICANS TEND TO OVERSTATE THESE
INSTABILITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN HIS OPINION THE CURRENT
GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD DONE QUITE WELL IN ESTABLISHING ITS
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AUTHORITY AND HAD SHOWN CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT. TO

ILLUSTRATE THIS RESTRAINT, LUNS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT
WERE HE, LUNS, A MEMBER OF THE CURRENT GREEK GOVERNMENT
WITH MEMORIES OF RULE BY THE COLONELS, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN
SORELY TEMPTED TO STAND THEM UP AGAINST THE WALL AND SHOOT
THEM. TO FURTHER ILLUSTRATE THE RESTRAINT WHICH SEEMS
NOW TO BE CHARACTERISTIC OF GREEK POLITICS, LUNS WENT ON
TO COMMENT THAT HE WAS SURPRISED THAT PAPADOPOULOS DID NOT
EXECUTE PANAGOULIS; LUNS WOULD HAVE HAD PANAGOULIS SHOT

WERE HE IN PAPADOPOULOS' SHOES.

3. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE GREEK EMBASSY HAS INQUIRED
OF GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE REGARDING LUNS' REMARKS AND HAS
BEEN GIVEN ESSENTIALLY THE FOREGOING ACCOUNT.

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